

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-07 EUR-12 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00
AF-10 DHA-02 ORM-02 /104 W
-----032655 221247Z /41

R 220801Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2585
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 3998

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, US, MO
IUBJ: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: REQUEST FOR MULTILATERAL INFORMATION ON
HOST GOVERNMENTS

REF: (WJL STATE 159747, (B) 76 RABAT 1153, (C) 76 STATE 37591

1. REFTEL (B) REMAINS VALID ANALYSIS OF MOROCCAN MULTILATERAL
POLICY -MAKING AND OBJECTIVES, IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS PARA 7
REFTEL (C). IN ADDITION, 75 RABAT 1872 CONTINUES GERMANE. THE
FOLLOWING RECENT TRENDS WILL ALSO AFFECT MOROCCAN BEHAVIOR IN
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

2. NEW ACTIVISM IN AFRICA: THE MOROCCAN MILITARY INTERVENTION
IN ZAIRE LAST APRIL REFLECTED MOROCCO'S NEW ACTIVISM IN COMBATTING
RADICAL INROADS IN AFRICA. THE GOM IS ESPECIALLY PREOCCUPIED
WITH SOVIET ASSISTANCE TO LIBYA AND ALGERIA, AND CONSEQUENT
BOLSTERING OF THE GUERRILLA WAR AGAINST MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA IN
THE SAHARA. GOM OFFICIALS ALSO FREQUENTLY COMMENT ON INCREASING
TENSIONS IN THE HORN OF AFRICA, WHICH THEY ATTRIBUTE PRINCIPALLY TO
GROWING SOVIET INFLUENCE IN ETHIOPIA.

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3. THE NEW ACTIVIST TREND STEMS PARTLY FROM MOROCCAN DISILLUSION-
MENT WITH THE UN, OAU AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN
DEALING POLITICALLY WITH THE SAHARA, WHERE MOROCCANS BELIEVE
THEIR FIRM APPROACH (THE GREEN MARCH AND ULTIMATE MILITARY
OCCUPATION) PAID OFF HANDSOMELY. SINCE THEN, THE GOM HAS
PERCEIVED THE UN ROLE AS UNHELPFUL TO MOROCCAN INTERESTS AND
NECESSITATING CONSTANT VIGILANCE AND COUNTER-ACTION. AS FOR THE

OAU, MOROCCO TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED PARTICIPATION IN FEBRUARY OVER THE BENIN AND SAHARA ISSUES, HAVING FACED A LONG SPATE OF CRITICISM FROM VOCAL RADICAL STATES. ITS RETURN TO THE OAU AT THE LIBREVILLE SUMMIT IN JULY NO DOUBT CONTRIBUTED TO THE RELATIVE MODERATION OF THAT MEETING, BUT THE GOM CONTINUES TO VIEW THE OAU AS ESSENTIALLY UNHELPFUL ON THE SAHARA AND INEFFECTUAL IN COMBATING RADICALISM IN THE CONTINENT.

4. SAHARA DEVELOPMENTS: AS DURING THE PAST THREE UNGA SESSIONS, THE SAHARA REMAINS MOROCCO'S NUMBER ONE FOREIGN POLICY CONCERN. THE GOM WILL SACRIFICE ATTENTION TO OTHER ISSUES TO DEVOTE THE NECESSARY ENERGIES TO THE SAHARA, AIMING AT SECURING AS MUCH INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT AS POSSIBLE. IT WILL JUDGE OTHERS TO A GREAT EXTENT IN RELATIONS TO POSITIONS TAKEN ON THE SAHARA. FOLLOWING THE 1976 UNGA DECISION TO DEFER TO THE OAU ON THE SAHARA, IN LIGHT OF THE 1976 OAU SUMMIT DECISION TO HOLD A SPECIAL SAHARA SUMMIT, MOROCCO TAKES THE POSITION THAT THE UN IS NO LONGER SEIZED WITH THE QUESTION. WHILE MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA HAVE PUBLICLY AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO THE HOLDING OF AN OAU SPECIAL SUMMIT ON THE SAHARA IN LUSAKA DURING THE FIRST HALF OF OCTOBER, GOM OFFICIALS PRIVATELY DO NOT BELIEVE THE NECESSARY QUORUM WILL BE ATTAINED.

5. THE GOM CAN ALSO BE EXPECTED TO STRESS HUMAN RIGHTS ASPECTS OF THE SAHARA REFUGEE PROBLEM. IT MAINTAINS THAT THE ALGERIANS ARE DETAINING SAHARAN REFUGEES AGAINST THEIR WILL IN THE TINDOUF

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AREA, AND HAS CONTINUED TO PRESS FOR THEIR REPATRIATION TO THE SAHARA. MOROCCO WILL OPPOSE INTERNATIONAL AID FOR THE SAHARAN REFUGEES, VIEWING IT AS AN INDIRECT CONTRIBUTION TO THE GUERRILLA WAR IN THE SAHARA.

6. MEDIATION EFFORTS: THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS MEDIATION EFFORTS OVER THE PAST YEAR BY SUCH COUNTRIES AS SENEGAL, EGYPT, SAUDI ARABIA AND GUINEA, AIMING AT EASING TENSIONS BETWEEN MOROCCO AND ALGERIA. THE MOROCCANS ASSERT THAT THEY REMAIN OPEN TO ANY AND ALL MEDIATION, BUT THAT THE ISSUE OF SAHARA SOVEREIGNTY IS NOT NEGOTIABLE. THEY CLAIM THAT ALL THEIR PROPOSALS, INCLUDING READINESS TO IMPLEMENT SELF-DETERMINATION IN THE SAHARA, HAVE BEEN REJECTED BY THE ALGERIANS. THUS PROSPECTS FOR DIPLOMATIC PROGRESS APPEAR DIM.

7. MIDDLE EAST: MOROCCO IS CURRENTLY MAINTAINING A STANCE OF WATCHFUL WAITING, PENDING RESULTS OF U.S. EFFORTS WITH THE NEW ISRAELI GOVERNMENT. MOROCCO CONTINUES TO STAND READY TO PLAY A ROLE IN SUPPORT OF A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. MEANWHILE, THE GOM SEEKS TO REMAIN IN THE ARAB MAINSTREAM AND KEEPS UP A STEADY FLOW OF CONTACTS, ESPECIALLY WITH THE CONSERVATIVE ARAB STATES BUT ALSO THE PLO. THE GOM IS CONDUCTING A MUCH-PUBLICIZED

CAMPAIGN FOR THE RETURN OF MOROCCAN JEWS, BUT ONLY A HANDFUL OF EMIGRES HAVE RESPONDED. THE GOM HAS CONSISTENTLY BEEN AT PAINS TO REASSURE ITS REMAINING 18,000 JEWISH CITIZENS, AND HAS ALSO RECENTLY WELCOMED VISITS BY SEVERAL PROMINENT EMIGRES, INCLUDING ISRAELIS.

8. GOM AND EMBASSY: RE PARA 7(E) REFTEL C, GOM-EMBASSY DIALOGUE ON FULL RANGE OF MULTILATERAL ISSUES HAS INTENSIFIED, IN KEEPING WITH HIGHER PROFILE IN BILATERAL RELATIONS OVER PAST YEAR. WE CAN PROBABLY EXPECT GOM, IN CONNECTION WITH UPCOMING UNGA, INCREASINGLY TO SOLICIT USG SUPPORT AND ACTION THROUGH EMBASSY, PARTICULARLY ON SAHARA, DEFENSE AGAINST RADICAL INROADS IN AFRICA, AND MIDDLE EAST PEACE.

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9. RABAT'S MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS OFFICER IS POLITICAL COUNSELOR G. NORMAN ANDERSON.
ANDERSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGS
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977RABAT03998
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: RABAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770729/aaaaaykb.tel
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Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 RABAT 1153, 76 STATE 37591
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1775180
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: REQUEST FOR MULTILATERAL INFORMATION ON HOST GOVERNMENTS
TAGS: PORG, US, MO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/82bb5b65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009